

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00437 192107Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 AID-05 /083 W

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R 191650Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3886

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0437

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SP SS AG MR

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA; MISSING FRENCH

REF: RABAT'S 0864, ALGIERS 0409 (NOTAL)

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR REPORTS FRENCH POLITICAL COUNSELOR GUYOT HAS CONCLUDED POLISARIO VERSION OF WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS CHILDREN IS PROBABLY TRUE. AT LEAST, HE HAS CONCLUDED IT MORE PLAUSIBLE THAT MOROCCAN, WHICH DOES NOT RING TRUE IN SEVERAL RESPECTS. FULL VERSION AS RECONSTRUCTED BY FRENCH HERE AS FOLLOWS.

2. GUYOT CHILDREN, WHO IN LATE TEENS, HAD GONE TO SPEND CHRISTMAS VACATION WITH GILLES AND NADIA PASCON AND TWO OTHERS AT SNALL CABIN OWNED BY PASCONS' FATHER (RON PASCON, MOROCCAN-FRENCH OF MOROCCAN NATIONALITY) ON BEACH SOUTH OF TAN TAN. THEY APPARENTLY LEFT CABIN ON JANUARY 2 TO RETURN TO RABAT. (CARE-TAKER OF CABIN WHO COULD CONFIRM THIS HAS MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED AND FRENCH ASSUME MOROCCANS HOLDING HIM SOMEWHERE BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT HIM TO TALK TO PRESS OR ANYONE ELSE.)

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 00437 192107Z

3. AT THIS POINT HYPOTHESIZING BEGINS. FRENCH SUPPOSE THAT ON REACHING MAIN ROAD NORTH THEY ENCOUNTERED MOROCCAN

MILITARY CONVOY, COMMANDER OF WHICH TOLD THEM THEY WERE FOOLS TO BE MOVING ABOUT THAT REMOTE AREA BY THEMSELVES AND THAT THEY JOINED HIS CONVOY, WHICH HEADED TOWARD EL AYOUN, EITHER UNDER HIS ORDERS OR VOLUNTARILY. VEHICLE IN WHICH THEY WERE RIDING BLOWN UP BY MINE AND IN ENSUING FIRE FIGHT ANY SURVIVING OCCUPANTS KILLED. POLISSARIO DID NOT STAY IN AREA LONG BUT IN QUICK SEARCH OF BODY OF MAN THEY ASSUMED WAS MOROCCAN OFFICER, THEY FOUND GUYOT BOY'S ID CARD.

4. FRENCH NOTE IT UNCHARACTERISTIC OF POLISARIO TO CONCEAL NAMES OF PEOPLE IT HOLDING AND MOROCCAN ALLEGATIONS GROUP KEEPING CHILDREN AS HOSTAGES TO BE USED AT LATER DATE IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH PRACTICE. NOR DOES POLISARIO HAVE ANYTHING TO GAIN BY SAYING CHILDREN DEAD IF THEY ALIVE.

5. THERE REMAINS MOROCCAN ALLEGATION POLISARIO EXECUTED CHILDREN. THIS OF COURSE INCONSISTENT WITH EARLIER ACCUSATION THEY BEING HELD AS HOSTAGES. IT ALSO INCONSISTENT WITH POLISARIO PRACTICE TO DATE. IT IS POSSIBILITY, BUT FRENCH THINK IT PRETTY REMOTE.

6. COMMENT: EITHER POLISARIO OR MOROCCANS LYING. PERHAPS BOTH ARE. WHAT IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE HERE, HOWEVER, IS THAT GUYOT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO ILL-INFORMED AS TO LET HIS CHILDREN GO INTO TAN TAN-TARFAYA REGION LAST DECEMBER. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT FOR OUR OWN EMBASSY RABAT, BUT WOULD ASSUME THAT DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AWARE OF RISKS OF TRAVEL IN THAT AREA. PARKER

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